

LABOR AND WAGES.

AMERICAN.

Harry Barter, of the Detroit Stevedores, is busily engaged in organizing an International Union composed of dock workers all along the lakes.

Cigarmakers' Union No. 87, New York, has voted for the proposition to elect the officers of the International Union by a general vote of the local unions.

Machine Woodworkers' Union No. 25 complains that rules relating to safety appliances are disregarded in New York, and that the factory rules, as prescribed by law, are not exhibited in most of the shops.

The tenement house cigarmakers, who were suspended by President Strasser from the Cigarmakers' International Union, have engaged counsel to sue the organization for dues paid during the time in which President Strasser had recognized them. The dues amount to more than \$10,000.

The Indiana State Federation of Labor has adopted resolutions recommending the election of United States Senators direct by the people; censuring legislatures who voted against labor measures; barring office seekers and politicians from membership in labor unions, and condemning business men for keeping open on Sunday.

Hundreds of workmen are idle in Paterson, N. J., as many factories have laid off large numbers of their workers. They clamor for work on the sewers and other public works of the city, but the contractors have brought carloads of Italians and other cheap hands from New York to do the work. An appeal of the unemployed to the Board of Aldermen proved fruitless.

L. W. Rogers has been retired as editor from the official organ of the Trainmen's Brotherhood because he refused to support the policy of the grand officers, which, as he thought, would wreck the organization. Mr. Rogers is in favor of federation of railroadmen's organizations and of supporting each other's strikes. The grand officers pursue a more individualistic policy.

The General Executive Board of the Knights of Labor is in possession of evidence showing that the boycott on Clark's O. N. T. thread has had such an effect that, in order to prevent a complete shutdown in one half of their departments, the company has been compelled to discharge their scabs in batches of twenty and thirty each alternate week. Those who remained in the employ of the firm are working only three or four days in the week.

The Iron Moulders' International Union has spent about \$51,000 for strikes and \$10,000 for death and disability benefits in less than a year. All efforts on the part of the bosses to crush the union have been unsuccessful. Without the union and the funds there would have been more strikes and greater losses and wages would have been 25 per cent. lower than they are. When will the mass of wage earners learn that union is their only protection?

EUROPEAN.

The closing down of the mills at Chatellain has thrown out of work 400 men.

A strike of shoemakers is on in London involving 13,000 operatives exclusive of women.

The central labor organization of Vienna has joined the Social Democratic party in a body.

At a procession of the striking glassblowers in Givers the standard bearer was arrested.

The striking miners at Marles were set upon by the police; several were wounded and one killed.

The Bricklayers' National Union of Germany has at present 250 local unions, with about 20,000 members and \$97,000 in its treasury. The dues are 40 cents per month and the weekly benefit amounts to \$3.50.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Jay Gould has \$90,000,000.

Krupp employs 20,000 people.

Uncle Sam has 1,800,000 women workers.

Boston cabinet workers want nine hours.

Indianapolis telephone girls will organize.

French miners will run a co-operative mine.

Lancashire collier hands have been out sixteen weeks.

Steam locomotives are to be tried on the Chicago street lines.

British capitalists own 33 per cent. of the wealth of the United States.

Three hundred British steamers and sailing vessels are lost at sea every year.

A Merced, Cal., jury has decided that it is not a crime for a man to steal a meal when he is hungry.

Thirty per cent. of all the women of the United States are working for a living, an increase of 9 per cent. over 1881.

The parliament of South Australasia has appropriated \$25,000 to purchase land near Petersburg for workingmen's homes.

Out of the labor of 1,230 convicts in various prisons in the United States the contractors made a clear profit of \$310,400 in 1890.

One of the attractions at the Chicago exhibition is to be a pyramid of 400 pianos connected by electricity and manipulated by one woman.

During a 24 hour run at the Edgar Thomas Steel Works last week the total number of rails rolled was 6,195, beating the rail making record of the world.

In the eight months ending on August 31 the number of men who slept in the various shelters of the Salvation Army in London was 194,128. In the same period the number of meals and cheap food tickets supplied by the army was 950,736, an average of 27,164 per week.

The French baker is not only required to conform to law regarding weight, but he is also told at what price he must sell his bread. He is further required to deposit a certain sum of money in the hands of the municipal authorities as a surety of good behavior. In the large fortified cities he has to keep a specified quantity on hand to provide for warlike emergencies.

The railroads in Canada are in private hands, and the number of persons killed by them in 1890 was 218. In New South Wales the Government owns and operates the roads, and while the same number of passengers were handled as in Canada only eight lives were lost. In Canada the death rate was 17 per million passengers, 1.31 in England and 0.66 in New South Wales.

The tax on land values, irrespective of improvements, has been adopted in New Zealand. It is not the single tax, for it taxes improvement values in excess of £3,000 to taxation. But it provides, as definitely as a perfect single tax law could, for the single tax on land values as to all land whose improvements do not exceed £3,000 in value.

The Progress of Unionism.

The first and most potent factor in our civilization was exercised by the trade guilds of Europe. These guilds, says the Coast Seamen's Journal, were organizations of artisans and trades people for the furthering of their best interests, and as a security against the turmoil of the middle ages, and are in fact the prototype of the trade union of to-day. In the United States the earliest authentic record of a labor organization exists in the New York "Journymen Shipwrights," incorporated in 1803. Organizations were there previous to that period, but they were mainly political and social in their objects—the need of organization for protection had not yet arisen in the New World. There had, like, been demonstrations of labor prior to formal organization (such as that in Philadelphia on July 4th, 1788, in which all the trades took part, after the fashion of these times) and a strike. This was the "Sailor's Strike" in New York, 1802, when the sailors demanded an increase of four dollars a month and paraded the streets with a band. The leader was arrested and thrown into jail under the conspiracy statute, thus ending the first strike in America. In the period between 1802 and 1825 the organization of workmen was largely developed in the direction of mutual and benevolent societies. About the latter period the system of trade unionism was inaugurated and continued until the beginning of the civil war in 1861. During this period the efforts of the unions were mainly toward reducing the working hours from fourteen to ten.

Latterly the idea of unionism has been developed in the direction of federation or the uniting of the different unions in a certain locality under one executive head. The first of these federations was the National Labor Union, founded in Baltimore in 1866, in which sixty labor organizations were represented. This body lost its prestige, by going into politics, and a period of nine years of inaction ensued. At length the present Federation of Labor was organized with the avowed purpose of preserving the individuality of the respective unions and directing their efforts for the general welfare, the proclamation of a universal eight hour day and the diffusion of propaganda for educational and protective purposes. Regarding the Federation's agitation for a shorter working day, we may say that it has met with great success. It is also owing in a great measure to the Federation that the reading public are confronted by the "plain, unvarnished tale" of labor as set forth in the papers of to-day.—Paving Cutters' Journal.

Father Huntington at the Church Congress.

At the Episcopal church congress held in Washington last week, Father Huntington, in the absence of Henry George, spoke in behalf of the single tax.

He said he agreed with what Dr. Kirkus, who opposed socialism, had said, but from exactly opposite reasons. Why vituperate the capitalist? He was just as much in the box as the workman; and the workman did not have to lie awake half the nights think-

ing how he could make both ends meet. The capitalist was a hard-working man. The landowner was not. Not the man who sat idle and drew in his rentals. Men did live without iron and gold and silver; but they never did or could live without land. Was it not absurd to class land—the gift of God—as private property, with the things man made? No one had the right to take away another's private property, that which he had made with his own sweat and labor. But would any one contend that a man could take private property in the gifts of God to mankind—in the air, in the water, in the land—without which no man could live? If some one could get possession of the water that would flow into New York in the next two months, if the draught continued, he would be a very rich man. But would he have any better title to it than he had to the land? He did not favor the division of the land into little bits any more than he favored the division of the atmosphere. But he hated landlordism. The landlord's title was blasphemous, for there was but one Landlord, and the human race were His tenants.

Jess' So.

We often seem to take it for granted that it is the function of a labor editor to get out a good, lively, red hot paper every week, whether we give him any financial support or not. That's because we don't think. A great deal of the harm we do is the result of thoughtlessness. A friend of mine has been furnishing his readers with a very excellent paper for several years on bread, cheese and beer diet, but it (the diet) is beginning to tell upon his highly sensitive constitution, and the poor fellow will soon be a physical wreck, a martyr to others' thoughtlessness and his own timidity. A labor paper is generally what its subscribers make it. If we all do our duty—subscribe, pay in advance, and hand in items of real labor news—we won't have much cause to kick. Labor journals are the life of the movement. Many trades councils and central labor bodies realizing this buy hundreds of copies of their local labor paper for free distribution among the unorganized. In no other way can propaganda work be more effectively carried on.—Frank McPhillips in Jackson Industrial News.

Cardinal Taschereau celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of his admission to the priesthood on September 10 next. The event is to be made the occasion of a grand celebration.

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